



Caltrans Proposal Response

Subject: Travel to CHP Scales
Proposal Date: January 7, 2006
Date: February 25, 2010
Reference: CTPAC WG2-010706-001

Industry Proposed Revision:

This proposal would allow permits to be issued for extralegal vehicles with undetermined axle weights. The purpose is to allow vehicles to travel to a California Highway Patrol (CHP) scale facility to verify axle weights.

The Department's Response:

California law does not allow extralegal loads to travel without a permit. The customer must provide complete and accurate information on the transportation permit application. The information is then used to determine if the load and the vehicle can qualify for an extralegal permit. Issuing a permit with undetermined weights that could exceed axle or gross weights may cause premature damage to the State highways and bridges.

The Department is not able to approve this request. These overweight vehicles would likely exceed the safe bridge rating factors. The Department must safeguard and protect all bridges and highways in the State. The potential impact of damage caused by overweight vehicles would be significant if the axle weights exceed the allowable limits.

Currently, there are other resources available for the customer to measure axle weights without having to travel to a CHP facility. The customer can purchase his own scales for measurement of loads. Additionally, there are local and private scales available throughout the state for the customer to perform axle weight verification without traveling onto State highways. For a listing of public scales, please refer to the following link at: <http://www.cdta.ca.gov/dms/programs/wm/publicscales/publicscalelisting.html>